

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 17, 2003

The Honorable Tommy G. Thompson  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

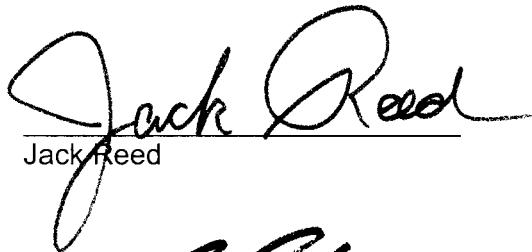
Dear Secretary Thompson:

We are writing to urge you to release additional funds from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to states under the current continuing resolution (CR). It is Congress's intent that states receive the maximum level of funding available under the CR to help low-income families with their energy bills. We appreciate the Department's release of \$844 million in October to help states open heating programs. This level of funding, however, is not sufficient as we move into the coldest winter months. The funding level for the state grant program in fiscal year 2003 was \$1.788 billion, and we believe that this should be the level at which funding is released under the CR.

LIHEAP provides a vital safety net for our nation's low-income households. For many low-income families, disabled individuals and senior citizens living on fixed incomes, home energy costs are unaffordable. Many states are receiving an increased number of LIHEAP applications this winter due to arrears from last winter's high energy prices and slow economic recovery in parts of our country. In addition, heating oil, propane and natural gas prices are higher than last year at this time. The release of additional LIHEAP funding under the CR will ensure that states have resources available to support their energy assistance programs in December and January.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

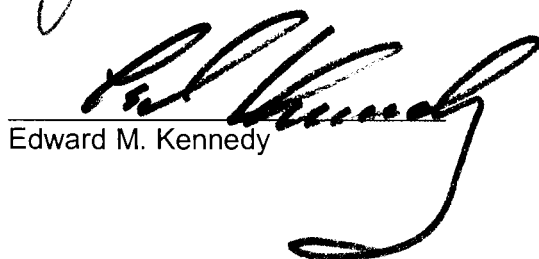
Sincerely,



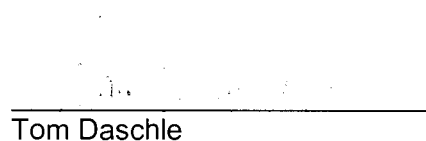
Jack Reed



Susan M. Collins



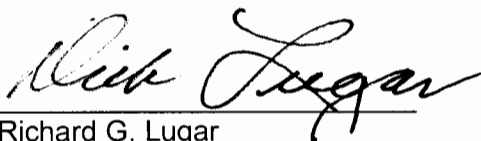
Edward M. Kennedy

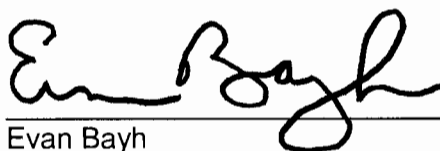


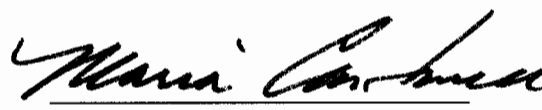
Tom Daschle

Page Two  
Letter to Secretary Thompson  
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program

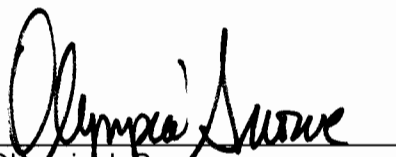
  
Herb Kohl

  
Richard G. Lugar


  
Evan Bayh

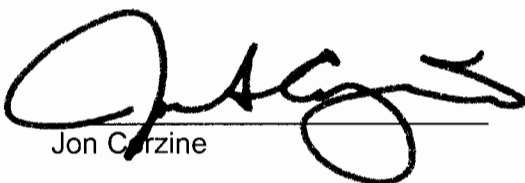
  
Maria Cantwell

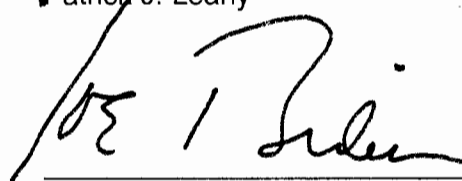
  
Max Baucus

  
Olympia J. Snowe

  
Barbara A. Mikulski

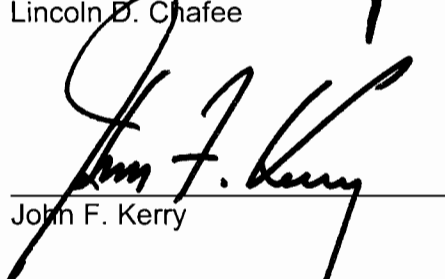
  
Patrick J. Leahy

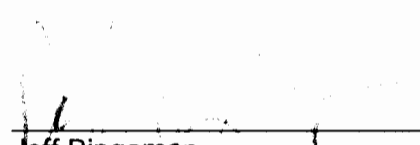
  
Jon Corzine

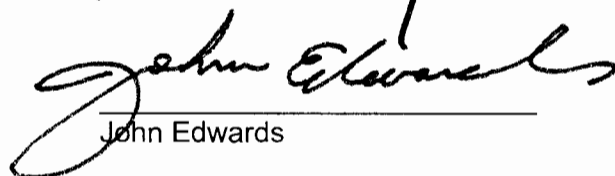
  
Joseph R. Biden

  
Lincoln D. Chafee

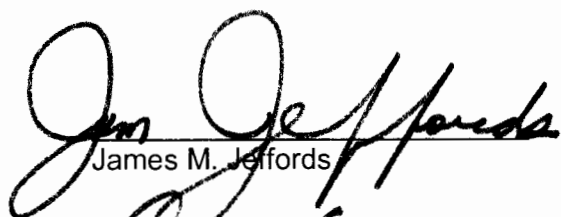
  
John D. Rockefeller IV

  
John F. Kerry

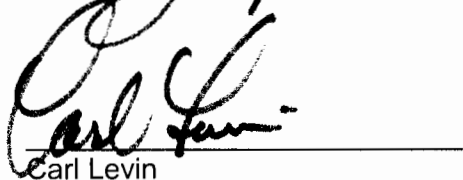
  
Jeff Bingaman

  
John Edwards

  
Tom Harkin



James M. Jeffords



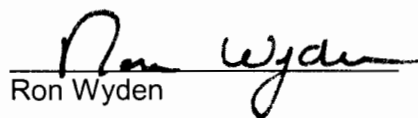
Carl Levin



Mark Dayton



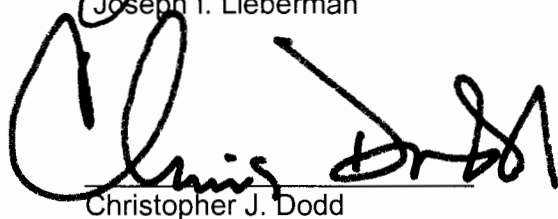
Debbie Stabenow



Ron Wyden



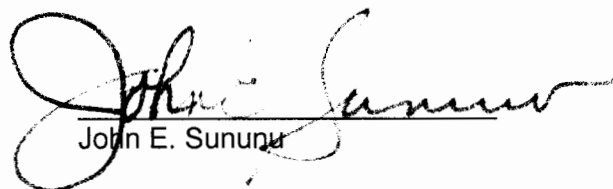
Joseph I. Lieberman



Christopher J. Dodd



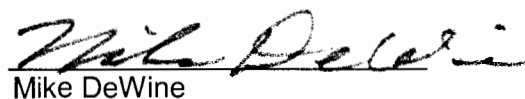
Arlen Specter



John E. Sununu



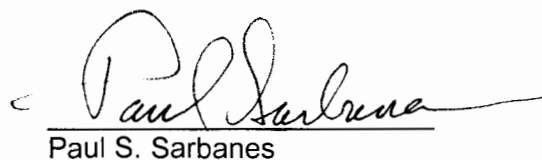
Hillary Rodham Clinton



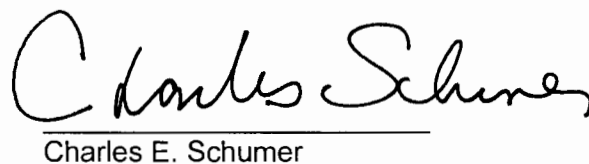
Mike DeWine



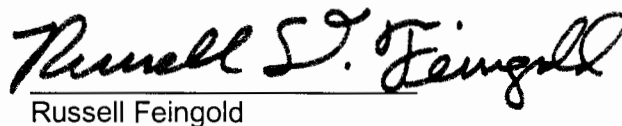
Frank Lautenberg



Paul S. Sarbanes



Charles E. Schumer



Russell Feingold

\_\_\_\_\_